

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A functionalized, ~~structurally modified~~ destructured silica, characterized by functional groups fixed on the surface, the groups being 3-methacryloxypropylsilyl and/or glycidyloxypropylsilyl, with the following physico-chemical characteristic data:

BET surface area	m <sup>2</sup> /g	25 - 380
Primary particle size	nm	6 - 45
Tamped density	g/l	50 - 400
pH		3 - 10
Carbon content	%	0.1 - 15
DBP number	%	<200

wherein said silica is produced pyrogenically by flame hydrolysis of SiCl<sub>4</sub> prior to surface modification.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The functionalized, ~~structurally modified~~ destructured silica of Claim 1 wherein the BET surface area ranges from 90±15 to 380±15.
4. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of functionalized, ~~structurally modified~~ destructured silica according to Claim 1 having functional groups fixed on the surface,

the groups being 3-methacryloxypropylsilyl and/or glycidyloxypropylsilyl, with the following

physico-chemical characteristic data:

<u>BET surface area</u>	<u>m<sup>2</sup>/g</u>	<u>25 - 380</u>
<u>Primary particle size</u>	<u>nm</u>	<u>6 - 45</u>
<u>Tamped density</u>	<u>g/l</u>	<u>50 - 400</u>
<u>pH</u>		<u>3 - 10</u>
<u>Carbon content</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>0.1 - 15</u>
<u>DBP number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>&lt;200</u>

wherein said silica is produced pyrogenically by flame hydrolysis of SiCl<sub>4</sub> prior to surface modification,

comprising spraying silica first with water or dilute acid and then with a surface modification reagent or a mixture of several surface modification reagents in a mixing vessel, intensively mixing the silica and said reagent, optionally re-mixing the silica for 15 to 30 minutes and then heat-treating at a temperature of 100 to 400°C over a period of 1 to 6 h, to thereby produce a functionalized silica, then destructuring or compacting said silica and optionally re-grinding said silica in a mill.

5. (Currently Amended) A coating composition containing the functionalized, ~~structurally modified~~ destructured silica according to Claim 1 in a binder vehicle.

6. (Currently Amended) A functionalized, ~~structurally modified~~ destructured silica, characterized by functional groups fixed on the surface, the groups being 3-methacryloxypropylsilyl and/or glycidyloxypropylsilyl, with the following physico-chemical characteristic data:

BET surface area	m <sup>2</sup> /g	25 - 380
Primary particle size	nm	6 - 45
Tamped density	g/l	50 - 400

pH		3 - 10
Carbon content	%	0.1 - 15
DBP number	%	<200,

said functionalized, ~~structurally modified~~ destructured silica being produced by spraying pyrogenically produced silica first with water or dilute acid and then with at least one of a surface modification reagent selected from the group consisting of 3-methacryloxypropylsilane, glycidoxypropylsilane and mixtures thereof, in a mixing vessel, intensively mixing the silica and said reagent, optionally re-mixing the silica for 15 to 30 minutes and then heat-treating at a temperature of 100 to 400°C over a period of 1 to 6 h, to thereby produce said functionalized silica.

7. (Currently Amended) The functionalized, ~~structurally modified~~ destructured silica according to Claim 6, which has been additionally subjected to destructuring or compacting and optionally re-grinding said silica in a mill.